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the excellence of the contents. One regrets that the edition of so pleasing a book should be limited to a few copies.

CYCLOPEDIA OF LAW AND PROCEDURE. Edited by William Mack and Howard P. Nash. Vol. I. A to Affidatus. New York: American Law Book Company. 1901. pp. v, 1160. 4to.

As the editors remark in their preface, "the cyclopedic method of treatment is far from being a new one in the law," — and naturally so, for it tends to produce exceedingly useful books. A single series of volumes may by this method offer an abridgment of the whole law, conveniently arranged, and fortified by full collections of the authorities on every question. Such works, well done, are invaluable to student and practitioner. For reference, they fill the place of a library of text-books. Because of their more elaborate and exact analysis, they are often more useful as indexes of decided cases than the current digests.

The merits of the present work can justly be determined only by actual use. The arrangement is perhaps not unexceptionable. Such topics as "Accomplices" and "Accommodation Paper" are not dealt with under those heads, but under the general titles, "Criminal Law" and "Bills and Notes." There is also a tendency to expand the notes by unnecessarily long statements of the facts of cases cited, as on pages 189, 190. These, however, are largely matters of detail, unimportant if the work as a whole prove satisfactory.

GENERAL DIGEST, AMERICAN AND ENGLISH. Bi-Monthly Advance Sheets. Rochester: The Lawyers' Coöperative Publishing Co. No. 23. June, 1901. pp. 892. 8vo.

AMERICAN DIGEST. Advance Sheets. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. No. 163. June, 1901. pp. xii, 892. 8vo.

Except for covers and advertising pages these books are absolutely identical. They purport to digest English as well as American cases, and a considerable number of legal periodicals. GENERAL DIGEST, cover page; AMERICAN DIGEST, iii. A cursory examination, however, has disclosed but few cases not found in the West Publishing Company's Reports; and the digesting of legal periodicals is noticeably incomplete.

With the great multiplication of law reports a help in finding one's way among the cases is increasingly necessary. The publications at hand are designed to meet this need in part, by furnishing an index of current case-law. As indexes they appear inadequate in material and in arrangement. They consist mainly of head-notes, or parts of head-notes, copied *verbatim* from the reports and arranged under a fixed number of digest-heads. This use of head-notes swells the digests with useless statements of facts, and renders it unnecessarily difficult to find illustrations of principles. Further, head-notes frequently do not exactly express the questions involved in the cases. Nor is the arrangement of these works well adapted to an index. In an orderly statement of legal principles the number of main divisions is comparatively few. An index of this kind, however, aiming not to state principles but to afford access to scattered cases and discussions, for its different purpose requires a different arrangement. One consults it to find material in the volumes indexed bearing